

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:505

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007

INEQUALITY IN EDUCATION

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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the children of the country are not getting education equally;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the problems being faced by the Government to provide education equally;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to end inequality in education; and
- (d) the extent to which progress has been achieved by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) to (c): Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme is being implemented for universalization of elementary education in the country in a time bound manner. In SSA following initiatives have been taken to reduce inequality.

i) Focus on girls' education: It promotes girl education to equalize educational opportunities and eliminate gender disparities.

ii) Ensure access and equity: Concern for education of socially disadvantaged groups is inter woven in SSA.

iii) Inclusion: SSA aims to ensure that every child with special needs, irrespective of the kind, category and degree of disability, is provided education in an appropriate environment.

iv) Improving quality: Quality improvement is one of the most important component under SSA. It provides supports for teachers' recruitment and training, curriculum/textbook renewal, development and distribution of teacher learning material, annual school grants, pupil assessment systems, computer aided learning etc.

(d): As a result of the initiatives taken under SSA programme, a large number of children have been brought into the fold of elementary education and number of out of school children has come down from 320 lakh in 2001-02 to 70 lakh in 2006-07 as per State Reports.